

Gator Gazette

Mayde Creek Elementary
September 2009

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome back! This has been an exciting beginning of the school year. We had an outstanding turnout for Meet the Teacher/Parent Orientation Night. I enjoyed meeting many of you and hope to get the opportunity in the near future to introduce myself personally to those I have not met. Your children came back with fresh faces ready and eager to learn, and the teachers are committed to helping them become successful in every area. This year the theme for our school is MCE Rocks. This has been a fun theme to incorporate and decorate around our campus.

I am excited to announce that 100% of our staff has joined the PTA. This is a statement that our teachers and staff are fully committed to doing everything they can to support the students. It is my hope and desire that our parents can match that commitment and that we can have 100% parent participation as well. PTA does so many wonderful things to support all students on this campus. If you have not already done so, please consider joining the MCE PTA.

Thank you for your cooperation as we begin the school year. When the school and community partner together, great things happen for our students.

Sincerely,

Juli Noeldner

Principal, Mayde Creek Elementary

KINDERGARTEN and PreK

Pre-K News

Thanks to all the parents who made our first days of Pre-K successful! We are off to great start this year.

We will be learning:

Language/Reading -Letters and sounds

Math-Shapes, graphs, sorting and matching

Social Studies- Classroom and routines, family members, school helpers,

Science-Health and Hygiene, and our 5 senses

Also, please remember to send a snack each day. The school does not provide snacks for your child. Check your child's folder and return daily.

Kindergarten News

Welcome to all of our new and returning Gator families! This year has started off wonderfully and full of excitement! All of our new Gators are learning and growing so much with each passing day. In order to keep "the creek" flowing smoothly, here are a few reminders for navigating these gator filled waters...

*PLEASE bring a **sports top water bottle daily**—it is so hot and this really helps! **WATER ONLY PLEASE.**

*Wear tennis shoes EVERYDAY, no flip flops.

*Send lunch money in an **ENVELOPE** with your child's name and teacher's name on the envelope .

*PLEASE check and return folder DAILY.

***A Ziploc bag of "just in case" clothing is great to have in their backpack.**

*We do not eat lunch until almost noon, so providing a **HEALTHY SNACK** for your child would help them through the day. Again, please write their name on both the water bottle and snack.

In order to provide the safest environment for your child, PLEASE make all **TRANSPORTATION CHANGES** prior to 3:00 pm , as well as in **WRITING**. Discussing this change with your child would be extremely helpful too! We are all looking forward to a great year! GO GATORS !!!



FIRST

Reading: This month we will be focusing on our sight words so that these words become recognizable in stories we read. Our goal with these words is to have our first graders read them without having to sound them out. While they are reading they will be using their schema (prior knowledge) to predict what will happen next, and also be able to act out the story when finished. Please continue reading with your child every night.

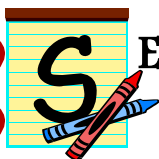
Math: First graders are busy working with numbers. We are using manipulatives daily to help us with basic skills like addition, subtraction, and comparing numbers. When we are not using manipulatives students rely on pictures to help them solve problems. Students will also learn to use patterns in addition and subtraction to help them solve basic facts.

Language Arts: We are so excited in first grade to get our writing under way! First graders will learn about sentences and how they always begin with capital letters, end with punctuation, and contain a noun and a verb. We will also begin keeping journals in which we can write our thoughts and creative stories. You might hear your child call it their Treasure Book.

Science: We will be doing many fun activities in science this month. We will be learning about germs and how they spread. First graders will learn all about the human body. They will learn why each body part is important and what it does.

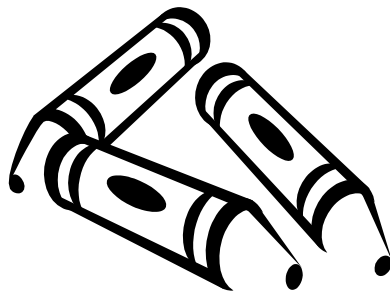
Social Studies: In social studies, students will be learning about rules and why they are important. Our first graders will also learn about the characteristics of good classroom citizenship including treating others fairly, following rules, and being honest and responsible.

Homework: First Graders will have homework each night. It should not take your child too long to complete. In addition to their assigned homework, it would be helpful if they studied their spelling words, phonograms, and sight words on a regular basis. This can be done during bath time or while riding in the car. Reading to your child and having them read to you is also a great habit to get into. The time spent reading with your child is priceless.



SECOND

Did you know? Reading 20 minutes each day adds at least 1,460,000 words heard per year! Reading aloud is probably the single most important activity you can do to affect reading success. With this in mind, reading at home will be an important part of your child's second grade reading program. As you may know, every minute your child spends with a book brings him or her closer to becoming a fluent reader. Even children who have not yet begun to read can gain reading skills simply by sitting down in a quiet location and looking through a book. But your child should not be doing ALL of the reading! It's time to roll up your sleeves and dig into a good book with your child. Parents reading to or reading along with their child is a highly encouraged activity. Over the school year, consistent daily reading will expose your child to various authors' styles and will improve your child's fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. The main goal is for your child to enjoy reading and to choose to read for pleasure. Your positive and active role will immerse your child into the wonderful world of literature so that he/she can enjoy books and reading for a lifetime!





THIRD

Our third graders are off to a great start! We are getting settled into our daily routines and have already learned a lot. A few reminders for you...

Please check and initial your child's Daily Folder every day. It is important to monitor your child's behavior in class. Also, please initial your child's Planner daily. Your child's homework will be written down in their Planners first thing in the morning.

Continue working on the Reading Log at home with your child. It is due on September 29th. At least 15 squares must be filled out and initialed. If your child completes the Reading Log correctly and turns it in by the due date, he/she will earn a 100 for a Homework Grade. 10 points will be deducted for every day it is late.

The Cookie Dough Fundraisers went home on August 27th. Help support MCE by participating in this fundraiser. Prizes will be awarded to students who are top-sellers!

Please remember that birthday treats must be served during recess time. Third grade has recess from 11:10 – 11:25 every day.

Feel free to contact your child's teacher by phone or email should you have any questions or concerns. We'll be conducting parent conferences in a few more weeks, so be on the lookout for sign-up times to come home with your child.

Here is what we've been working on and will continue to learn throughout the month of September:

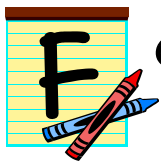
In **Reading**, we will be learning about book parts, as well as doing reading strategies. We will do character analyses and story elements. We will use leveled readers as well as our textbooks to read fun and exciting stories.

In **Language**, we began school by writing about our summer vacations in a five-part writing assignment. We are also focusing on writing complete sentences, using capital letters and correct ending marks. We will also work on the 4 types of sentences: statements, questions, commands, and exclamations. Finally, we will practice stretching our sentences to make super sentences.

In **Math**, we have been learning about place-value, starting with the hundreds place. We will continue learning and reading numbers up to the hundred-thousands place. We will learn about the 3 forms of a number (standard form, expanded form, and written form). Our mathematicians will also be comparing and ordering numbers. Finally, we will be using place-value to help us add 2 and 3-digit numbers.

In **Social Studies**, we are learning about the Parts of a Map. The parts of a map include the title, map key, symbols, compass rose, and scale. Students will create a flipbook defining each part of the map. Next, the students will learn about landforms. Soon, the students will create landforms using Salt Dough.

In **Science**, our students will be learning about nutrition and our major body systems. The students will create a Human Body Book to help them learn about the muscular, skeletal, digestive, nervous, respiratory, and circulatory systems. Thank you for your continued support! We could not do it without you!



FOURTH

Fourth graders are rockin' and rollin' this year! The school year is off to a great start, and we can keep the momentum going!

In **Reading**, students are focusing on characterization, traits, and motivation. Teachers are sharing wonderful literature with fourth graders on a daily basis. We are practicing many strategies of good readers, including re-reading, questioning, and visualization. We will explore different genres and read a variety of materials, from *National Geographic Explorer* magazines to novels. We will also learn about and recognize plot structure. On all reading comprehension assignments, fourth graders are expected to prove their answers using examples from the text. We practice this in class, and students will also be expected to use this strategy on homework assignments. Reading logs were distributed on August 24, 2008. Students are required to read 350 minutes throughout the first six weeks. The reading log and project are due on September 29th.

In **Language**, students are learning about the six traits of writing: Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Voice, and Conventions. Fourth graders write in their journals daily, and our goal is to build writing fluency and stamina. Students will be writing many personal narrative stories this year.

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We have been building a classroom community in **Social Studies**. We started the year getting to know one another's personalities, strengths, and interests. Students enjoyed interviewing a partner and introducing him/her to the class. Currently, we are studying map skills and geography. Fourth graders are learning "where in the world is Texas?" Our focus will mostly be on Texas culture and history this year.

Fourth grade **scientists** will be participating in many hands-on activities this year, so our first focus was lab safety. Recently, we have been studying the water cycle. Students are learning key concepts and vocabulary, such as *evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and cycle*. We will also learn about winds, tides, and weather this six weeks.

In Math, we started the year with a review of place value, reading and writing numbers, and basic number sense. We will continue to build on these skills, as they are vital to upcoming math topics. Students will soon be working on rounding, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and word problems. It is important that your fourth grader has mastered the basic multiplication facts learned in 3rd grade. Students are expected to know all the facts through 12 x 12 with speed and accuracy. Math journals will be a vital component to our math program this year, and students add new knowledge to their journals every day. The math journal should be coming home each night with your child, so make sure you're seeing it!



The fifth grade teachers are very excited about the beginning of this new school year!

Fifth grade **Math** is starting out fast with place value of and comparing and ordering whole numbers to the hundred billions place and decimals to the thousandths place. We will next move on to rounding and compatible numbers. In the second six weeks, we will focus on prime and composite numbers, divisibility, and long division using three-digit dividends and two-digit divisors. Everything that we do will have a problem solving emphasis to teach the students to not only master basic mathematical concepts, but to apply them in a variety of situations as well. Please encourage your child to complete all homework and practice math facts at home.

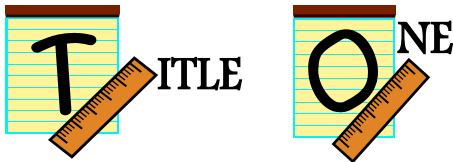
In **Science**, students have been learning about lab safety and science tools. We will explore the Scientific Method, and then we will study the properties and characteristics of matter. We'll make and observe mixtures and solutions. During the second six weeks, we will learn about different types of energy, including heat, electrical, light, and solar.

In **Reading**, the students are learning the different Literature Circle jobs so that they are ready to have meaningful conversations about the chapter books they will be reading. The first chapter book we will read is Frindle by Andrew Clements. The reading skills that we will focus on are summarizing, character traits, making connections, and sequencing. Our students need to be keeping up with their Reading Logs (The first one is due September 29th). Remember: Each Take Home Reader can count towards two boxes on their Reading Log.

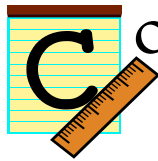
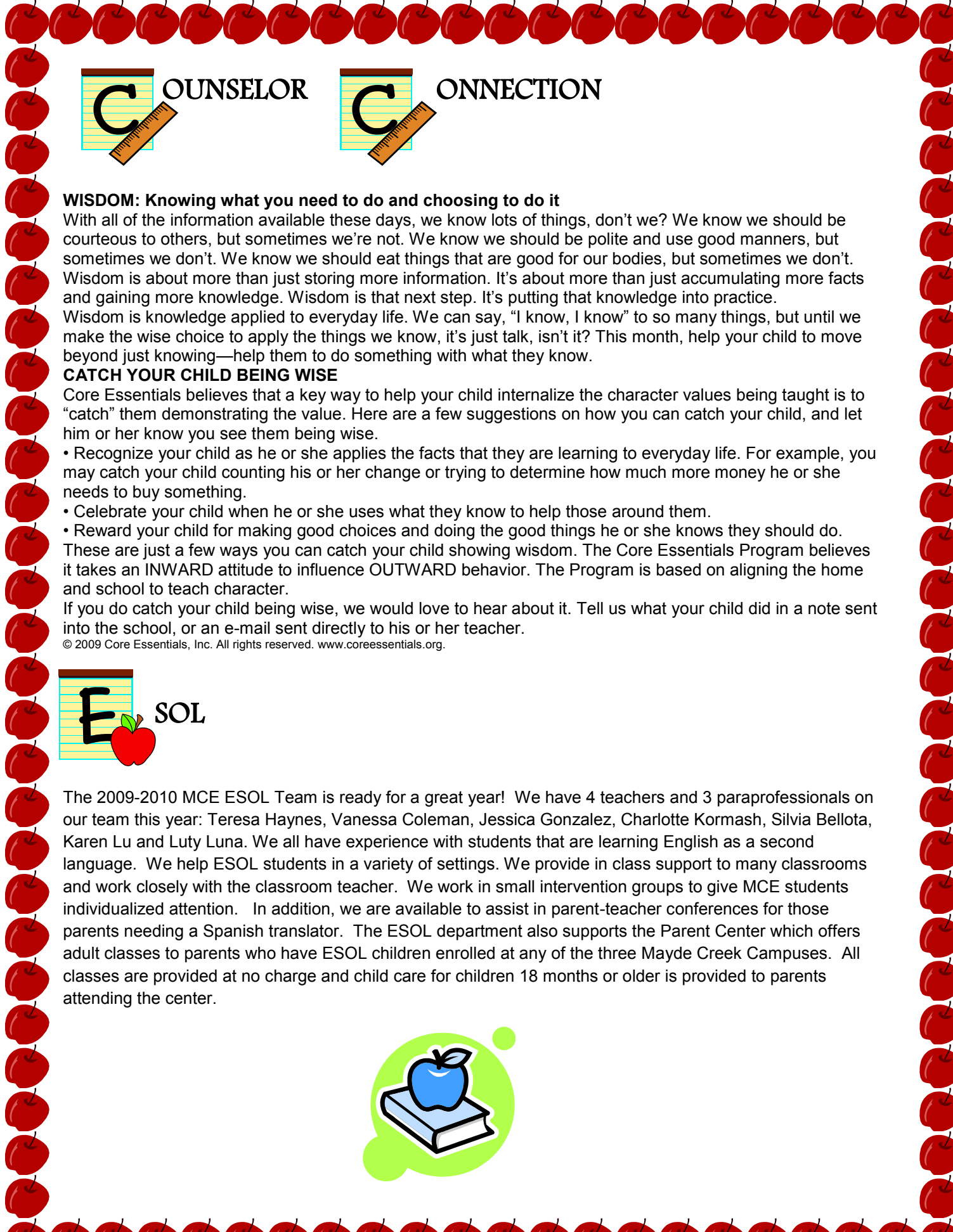

In **Social Studies**, we are exploring the 5 regions of the United States, and we are learning to identify the states. We will be learning about the government of the early American colonies and we will examine the events leading up to the American Revolution.

Please continue to initial your child's homework planner and conduct folder daily.

We would like to thank all the parents who came to our parent orientation. We will be sending home requests soon to begin scheduling our parent conferences. We look forward to teaching your children and meeting each of you this year. We know that 2009-2010 at MCE is going to be a great year for 5th Grade!



Don't miss out on some important information about our school at the PTA meeting on Friday, September 18th, at 6 :30 pm. SEE YOU THERE!

 COUNSELOR  CONNECTION**WISDOM: Knowing what you need to do and choosing to do it**

With all of the information available these days, we know lots of things, don't we? We know we should be courteous to others, but sometimes we're not. We know we should be polite and use good manners, but sometimes we don't. We know we should eat things that are good for our bodies, but sometimes we don't. Wisdom is about more than just storing more information. It's about more than just accumulating more facts and gaining more knowledge. Wisdom is that next step. It's putting that knowledge into practice. Wisdom is knowledge applied to everyday life. We can say, "I know, I know" to so many things, but until we make the wise choice to apply the things we know, it's just talk, isn't it? This month, help your child to move beyond just knowing—help them to do something with what they know.

CATCH YOUR CHILD BEING WISE

Core Essentials believes that a key way to help your child internalize the character values being taught is to "catch" them demonstrating the value. Here are a few suggestions on how you can catch your child, and let him or her know you see them being wise.

- Recognize your child as he or she applies the facts that they are learning to everyday life. For example, you may catch your child counting his or her change or trying to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy something.
- Celebrate your child when he or she uses what they know to help those around them.
- Reward your child for making good choices and doing the good things he or she knows they should do.

These are just a few ways you can catch your child showing wisdom. The Core Essentials Program believes it takes an INWARD attitude to influence OUTWARD behavior. The Program is based on aligning the home and school to teach character.

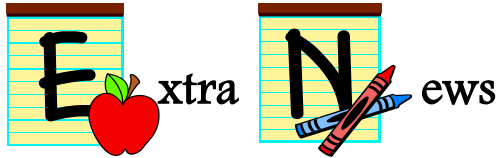
If you do catch your child being wise, we would love to hear about it. Tell us what your child did in a note sent into the school, or an e-mail sent directly to his or her teacher.

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 ESOL

The 2009-2010 MCE ESOL Team is ready for a great year! We have 4 teachers and 3 paraprofessionals on our team this year: Teresa Haynes, Vanessa Coleman, Jessica Gonzalez, Charlotte Kormash, Silvia Bellota, Karen Lu and Luty Luna. We all have experience with students that are learning English as a second language. We help ESOL students in a variety of settings. We provide in class support to many classrooms and work closely with the classroom teacher. We work in small intervention groups to give MCE students individualized attention. In addition, we are available to assist in parent-teacher conferences for those parents needing a Spanish translator. The ESOL department also supports the Parent Center which offers adult classes to parents who have ESOL children enrolled at any of the three Mayde Creek Campuses. All classes are provided at no charge and child care for children 18 months or older is provided to parents attending the center.





Child Find Notice:

It is Katy ISD's responsibility to identify and evaluate students who within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 need special services or programs in order that such students may receive the required free appropriate education.

A student who may need specialized instruction or programs within the intent of Section 504 is one who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of life's major activities; or
- Has a record of such impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.

Students may be eligible under the provisions of Section 504 even though they do not require services pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Parents who believe that they have a child who may qualify for special services or programs under Section 504 should contact Valarie Sikes, the campus 504 coordinator for Mayde Creek Elementary.

Important Dates To Remember:

Monday, Sept. 7th:	Holiday
Tuesday, Sept. 15th:	Love and Logic for Parents @ 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 16th:	Progress Reports Go Home
Friday, Sept. 18th:	Cookie Dough Fundraiser Ends PTA Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. Movie Night @ 7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 25th:	Rodeo Day
Tuesday, Sept. 29th:	Love and Logic for Parents @ 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 1st:	Student Picture Day
Friday, Oct. 2nd:	Student Early Dismissal End of First Six Weeks